

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, December 3, 1900

VOLTA BUREAU, FOR THE INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE RELATING TO THE DEAF, WASHINGTON CITY, U. S. A. SHORTHAND DICTATION. December 3, 1900. Dear Mabel: —

I have just received a letter through the Dead Letter Office which was sent to Monroe & Co.'s by Miss Safford, in Paris, and there misdirected to the Angleterre Hotel, London, England, instead of the Alexandra Hotel. See envelope enclosed. It is probable that there are other letters, &c. that have gone astray in the same way. You better write to the Angleterre Hotel and find out whether any other letters have come.

I am sorry to hear that Dr. de Lacharrier has not received a copy of the Association Review, containing his picture, sketch of his life, &c., &c. Two copies were sent by Mr. Booth, and since I returned a third copy has been sent. Won't you please find out whether he has received these copies, and if not send him yours?

Grace has not been very well the last few days, having a feverish cold. She was better when I saw her last night. Uncle David seems to be doing well.

I go to New York tonight, as the Steamer Columbia is due tomorrow, although I hardly think she will come in until next day; still I want to be on hand to welcome Elsie and Bert.

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I went to the rooms at the Everett that have been taken for them and they seem very nice and very suitable. I will ask Miss Safford if she won't go down and see that everything is nice for them there, flowers, &c., &c., I don't want to bother Grace about it as she has been in the house for some days, lying down on the sofa, not confined to bed.

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Have you any recollection of the name of Graham Buckley? A gentleman of this name has been trying to find me for sometime past. He acted as if he was some old and intimate acquaintance or friend of mine, although I have no recollection of him personally, although somehow or other his name has a familiar sound to it. I had a telegram in Boston from him, as I was going up to Baddeck, from which I understood he was about to sail for Europe, and would like to run up to Boston to see me. I replied that I was traveling, and could not make an appointment, but would be in Washington about December 1st. Instead of going to Europe he came to Washington on December 1st, and I have a letter from him here which made me think perhaps he might be some crank, so I did not like to receive him at the Bureau alone. Finding he was at the Arlington I called upon him there yesterday, but he was not in. I took supper with Charlie and we telephoned to the Arlington and invited him to come up in the course of the evening.

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In talking with Charlie yesterday through the telephone he said "Mr. Bell do you remember my voice?", as if he was a very dear and old friend. He came up to Charlie's yesterday evening but neither Charlie nor I could place him, although from his conversation I am pretty sure that he must have been connected with some of the early telephone Companies, and I may have met him then. He speaks of having been quite intimate with me in London in 1880. I cannot be sure that I was in London in 1880. Daisy was born in that year in Washington, and the photophone was brought out in Boston somewhere about August 1880. I may have been there after that, but I do not think there could have been much time to become intimate with anyone in London.

He seems to be a very nice gentleman, and I have no doubt he was associated in some way or other with one of the telephone companies, Oriental or International. Perhaps Mrs. Hubbard may remember his name. The persistent way in which he has been hunting me up suggests the idea that he wants something; however, if so it has not materialized.

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I felt very sorry for him last night, when he had the mortification of finding out that I had no recollection of him in the past, when from his account one would think he had been one of 4 my dearest friends. It was "Don't you remember in the Langham Hotel that you said Buckley this, and Buckley that?" And then he referred to Bayley's Hotel. Can you help my memory upon the subject? He is going to call upon me at the Gilsey House, and perhaps something may develop at that time.

Tired out — been at the Census Office on the afternoon — and then meeting of Committee of Nat. Geog. Soc. to arrange for Scientific meetings of the Society. Just resting for a little before taking train for New York. Don't feel like going at all — but don't want Elsie & Bert to arrive without a welcome from me. Good night,

Your loving husband Alec. Mr. A. Graham Bell 6 rue de Longchamp, Paris — France,
Belongs in Drawer No. 18 FR. BELL'S ROOM, Hubbard Memorial 1156 - 16th Street,
Washington, D. C.

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Your loving husband Alec. Mrs. A. Graham Bell, 6 rue de Longchamp, Paris — France.